

OSCAR LEESER
MAYOR

TOMMY GONZALEZ
CITY MANAGER



CITY COUNCIL

PETER SVARZBEIN, DISTRICT 1
JIM TOLBERT, DISTRICT 2
EMMA ACOSTA, DISTRICT 3
CARL L. ROBINSON, DISTRICT 4
MICHEL R. NOE, DISTRICT 5
CLAUDIA ORDAZ, DISTRICT 6
LILY LIMÓN, DISTRICT 7
CORTNEY CARLISLE NILAND, DISTRICT 8

January 25, 2017

NEWS RELEASE

Smell gas, now what?

EPFD and Texas Gas remind the public what to do during gas leaks

El Paso, Texas –The El Paso Fire Department and Texas Gas Service would like to remind the public that if you smell natural gas, leave the area immediately and call 9-1-1. Natural gas piping can be above and below ground, adjacent to structures or above buildings. Therefore, be alert for odors, sounds or visual signs that may indicate a possible leak.

Remember, in its natural state, you cannot smell natural gas. So Texas Gas Service adds a chemical called mercaptan which has a strong pungent sulfur-like or rotten eggs odor to warn you if a natural gas leak is present. You may also hear a loud roaring or high-pitched hissing sound. You may also have a natural gas leak if you see any of the following: (a) dirt or water blowing into the air (b) standing water continuously bubbling (c) unexplained dead or discolored vegetation/grass or (d) dry spots in a moist field.

- If you smell, hear or see a possible gas leak, leave the area immediately and notify others to do so as well. Notify others in person, not by phone or text. Do not ring the doorbell; knock instead. Abandon any equipment being used in or near the area. Move in an upwind direction away from the leak and maintain a safe distance.
- Do not operate appliances, lights, phones (landlines or cell), garage doors or any other electrical equipment if you smell natural gas. Electrical currents from these devices can spark an explosion.
- After you leave the potentially affected area, call 9-1-1 to report a natural gas leak. Please do NOT use email, our website or social media to report a natural gas emergency.
- Stay away from the building until an official familiar with the situation tells you it is safe to return.
- Once your natural gas has been shut off, do not try to turn it back on. For your safety, only a qualified technician may perform this task.

Remember, the El Paso Firefighters and Texas Gas employees know what to do in these situations. But it is important you first find safety, then call 9-1-1.

###

Media Contact: Carlos A. Briano
Fire Public Information Officer
Cell # (915) 820-9712